

## ARTICLE 10. Watershed Land Acquisition Amherst

This article authorizes the purchase of approximately 12 acres of developable land located close to the Atkins Reservoir. The Town of Amherst has applied for a state Drinking Water Supply Protection grant to reimburse us for a portion of the purchase price, and the property will only be purchased if we are awarded the grant. This grant typically reimburses for 50% of the purchase price.

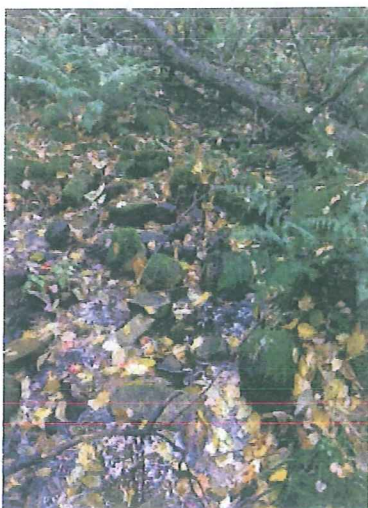
### Key factors to consider:

- The Atkins Reservoir provides approximately 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of Amherst's drinking water supply and is therefore a critical water resource.
- The property consists of 3 parcels:
  - 2 potential house lots located across the street from the Atkins Reservoir (Parcels 1 & 2).
  - 1 parcel that encompasses a portion of a stream corridor along the Robert Frost Trail (Parcel 3).
- As shown on the map, all 3 parcels are located within the Zone A/B surface water supply protection areas. These are the most critical zones to protect because of their close proximity to the surface water supply source.
- There is a significant threat of development to this property:
  - Current owner is a motivated seller.
  - Percolation tests for septic systems have been performed.
  - House lots have beautiful views and are in ready-to-build condition.



*View of Atkins from Parcel 1*

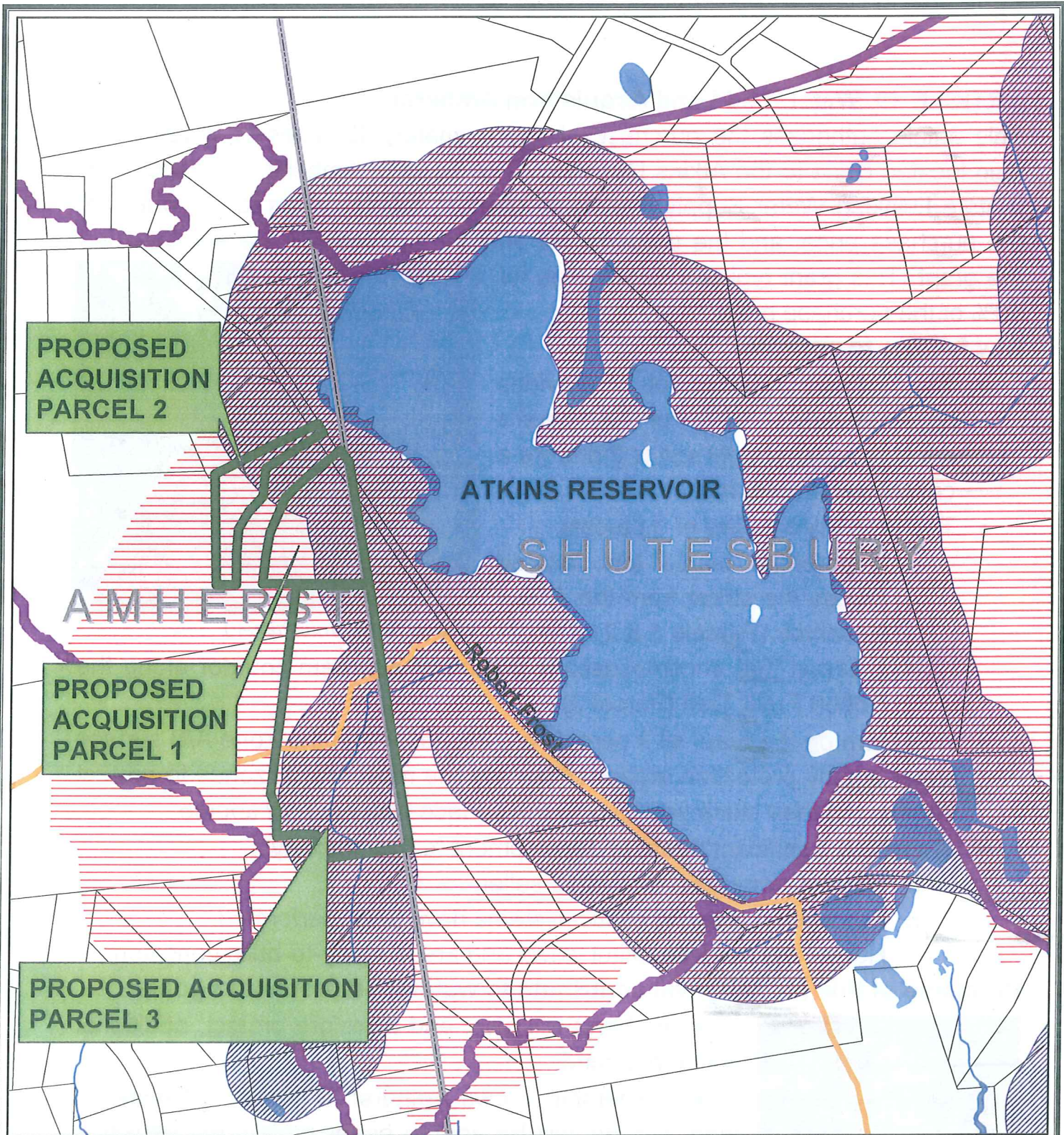
### Purchase of this property will contribute to watershed protection goals:



- Amherst will own, and therefore protect, additional watershed land.
- Ownership allows Amherst to control activities on land, and we will be able to better protect the sensitive portion of the RFT located near the stream.
- We will prevent development that may negatively impact drinking water supply due to its close proximity to the reservoir.

**Watershed land use helps determine the quality of surface water. Higher quality surface water leads to higher quality drinking water!**





**PROPOSED  
ACQUISITION  
PARCEL 2**

**PROPOSED  
ACQUISITION  
PARCEL 1**

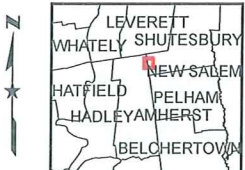
**PROPOSED ACQUISITION  
PARCEL 3**

ATKINS RESERVOIR

SHUTESBURY

AMHERST

Robert Frost

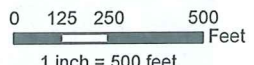


# **TOWN MEETING FALL, 2013 ARTICLE 10: WATERSHED LAND ACQUISITION (3 PARCELS, 12 ACRES TOTAL)**

Town of Amherst



[www.amherstma.gov](http://www.amherstma.gov)



EK, 10/9/2013

Horizontal Datum: MA Stateplane Coordinate System, Zone 4151, Datum NAD83, Feet

Planimetric basemap features compiled at 1"=40' scale from April, 2009 Aerial Photography.

Parcels compiled through a "best-fit" methodology to match the basemap; revisions are ongoing. Property Lines are not for conveyance purposes.

The Town of Amherst and its mapping contractors assume no legal responsibility for the information contained herein.

**Legend**

Zone A
 Watershed Boundary
 Town Boundary

ZONE B
 Major Trail